The Government has undertaken various e-governance initiatives to address delays in completing various processes.

Replacement of popular Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme

1579. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to replace the popular Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPS);

(b) whether Government has appointed National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Economic Law Forum to design a new export incentive scheme to replace DEPB; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. In the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31st August, 2004, it was mentioned that the DEPB Scheme will continue to be operative until it is replaced by a new scheme which will be drawn up in consultation with the exporters.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. After wide ranging discussions with exporters and exporters organizations, based on the feedback of the proposals received, Government has decided to formulate a scheme with the help of National Council for Applied Economic Research, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation/Economic Law Practice, as their proposal was found to be based on sound economic principles which could capture the incidence of various duties and taxes on different products.

Sainik Welfare Boards in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

†1580. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in which Sainik Welfare Boards are in existence as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the districts among them where number of ex-servicemen living there is less than and more then 7500;

(c) whether any approval has been taken from Ministry of Defence to establish Sainik Welfare Boards in districts having less than seven thousand and five hundred ex-servicemen; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.